

An Important Message from Dallas Hammit, Acting Deputy Director of Transportation

Stay safe by preparing to drive in winter weather

When Jennifer Toth launched the Driving Safety Home program in 2013, I was more than happy to sign the pledge agreeing to make safety the top priority every time I travel. Like you, I was glad to know a program aimed at increasing and enhancing awareness about transportation-safety issues was in place.

While providing a chance to learn more about safety, Jennifer's monthly messages have offered us all a recurring reminder that, as drivers, we play a vital role in protecting our own lives and the lives of others on the road.

That emphasis on safety is, of course, going to continue, and as ADOT's acting state engineer and deputy director for transportation, I am excited to move forward with this mission.

That brings us to this month's topic: [Know Snow](#).

As winter heads our way, many parts of our state can expect to see snowy and icy conditions. As an agency, we are ready for whatever is ahead. Our snowplows are standing by and are all set to clear the roads for drivers.

Public safety is ADOT's top priority, and it is so important that we all set an example and drive with extra caution at all times, but especially in winter weather conditions.

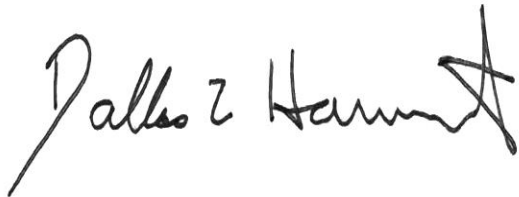
Here are some driving tips to help you and your loved ones stay safe while on the road this winter:

- Plan your travel route in advance and be sure to notify someone of your route, destination and projected arrival time.
- Fill your fuel tank and try to keep it at three-quarters full. Running out of gas — especially in a remote location — is extremely dangerous during winter conditions.
- Visit az511.gov or dial 511 for updated road and weather conditions. ADOT's own [Twitter](#) feed is a great resource for travelers, too. Of course, you should never use a cell phone or mobile device while driving!

- Never drive into snowy, icy or cold conditions without a fully charged cell phone, drinking water and winter coats, warm blankets or both. Consider keeping an emergency preparedness kit in your vehicle that includes blankets, a flashlight, an ice scraper, a shovel, sand for traction and hazard warning lights or reflectors.
- When driving on wet or slippery roadways, remember to drive for the conditions: slower speed, slower acceleration. Use your headlights. Brake slowly. If you skid, don't panic and slam on the brakes or jerk the steering wheel. Stay calm, ease off the accelerator, brake very lightly, and steer straight or slightly into the direction of the skid.

All these tips and more can be found on [our website](#). I also encourage you to review the [road-trip safety information](#) on the ADOT website. All of these helpful tips will definitely come in handy if you're among the many Arizonans who will be using our state highways over the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend.

Finally, I want to let you know that you'll be hearing more from ADOT on its snow prep in the coming weeks. Be sure to keep an eye on our [YouTube channel](#), the [ADOT Blog](#), [Twitter](#) and the [ADOT home page](#) for the very latest in snow safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dallas Z. Hammett". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "D" and a prominent star-like flourish at the end of the last name.